



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**REGION 8**

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Ref: 8EPR-N

OCT 07 2009

Clarence W. Marsella, General Manager  
Regional Transportation District  
1560 Broadway, Suite 700  
Denver, CO 80202-5140

Terry J. Rosapep, Regional Administrator  
Federal Transit Administration, Region 8  
4601 DTC Boulevard, Suite 700  
Denver, CO 80237-2568

Re: East Corridor Commuter Rail from Downtown Denver  
to Denver International Airport, FasTracks, Metropolitan  
Denver, Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS),  
CEQ# 20090309

Dear Messrs. Marsella and Rosapep:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 8 has reviewed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the East Corridor Commuter Rail from Downtown Denver to Denver International Airport (DIA), FasTracks, Metropolitan Denver in accordance with EPA responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S.C 4231 and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

The East Corridor FasTracks project will serve as a critical rail and bus transit connection between downtown Denver and Denver International Airport, linking a regional and national transportation network. The proposed, high-capacity, fixed-guideway transit system will travel through business, residential, and new development areas in portions of Denver, Aurora, and Adams County. The preferred alternative is the East Corridor alignment which generally follows the existing Union Pacific Railroad and Peña Transportation corridors to DIA and includes:

- Double-track electric multiple unit commuter rail;
- 6 new stations;
- 7,900 parking spaces on completion of the proposed project;
- 20 grade-separated crossings;
- 17 at-grade crossings;
- Average weekday ridership of 37,900;
- 29-minute travel time from Denver Union Station to DIA;

- Service between 3:00 a.m. and 1:00 a.m. 365 days a year;
- 15-minute frequency (headway) from 4:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.;
- Capital cost of \$1.642 billion (in year of expenditure dollars); and
- Annual estimated operating cost of \$17,575,188 (in 2008 dollars).

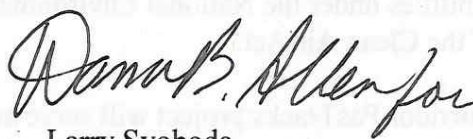
Thank you for the attention given to our comments and to the potential resolution of those comments that was discussed prior to distributing the FEIS. As a result, the FEIS generally addresses our concerns. One of the primary issues articulated throughout the FEIS development process has been the potential for the proposed project to impact the minority and low-income populations in or adjacent to the study area. EPA identified particular concern with the potential exposure of these Environmental Justice (EJ) communities to short term construction impacts associated with the proposed project, including exposure to Mobile Source Air Toxics (MSATs).

While EPA appreciates that the FEIS addresses many potential impacts to the EJ communities, we remain concerned about air quality-related issues raised in our comments submitted on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Specifically, EPA recommends:

- Additional analysis of MSATs associated with emissions from both on-road and non-road vehicles and engines during construction;
- Clarifying the misinterpretation of our previous comment on mitigation measures for MSATs from construction equipment. Our comment was specifically for MSATs mitigation associated with construction of the East Corridor Project; and
- Updating the "Technical Report-Air Quality" to reflect changes made in the FEIS air quality discussion.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss our comments, please contact Robin Coursen, (303) 312-6695, of my staff, or you may contact me at (303) 312-6004.

Sincerely,



Larry Svoboda  
Director, NEPA Program  
Office of Ecosystems Protection and Remediation